ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A toothbrush having novel bristles and/or a novel handle is disclosed. The toothbrush has a better grip and a better massaging effect than in the prior art. The effective areas of bristle contact are preferably flat sections, which increase the total area of contact. The bristles in the present invention are shaped like a polygon in cross-section. The polygon-shaped bristles preferably have three to six sides, and the polygon is preferably a regular polygon. The points of contact on the tooth are the edges of the polygon. When the cleaning direction of the brush is perpendicular to the long axis of the bristle, the effective cleaning agent is a cleaning edge equivalent to the corner of the polygon. The bristles are twisted in a spiral (screw-like) pattern to allow for the tooth to contact primarily the edges of the sides of the bristles. The edges of the bristles are preferably always in contact with the tooth. The toothbrush handle preferably has at least four thumb grips. The thumb grips are preferably concave areas with raised parallel ridges to minimize slip and maximize friction under wet conditions. The handle has a general elongated shape that is preferably slightly elliptical. In a preferred embodiment, each thumb grip area has a layer of soft non-slip material covering it.